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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 00454 051009Z

15
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /138 W
---------- 065172
R 050937Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9082
INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0454

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PO
SUBJ: INITIAL MEETING WITH CAETANO

1. MY INITIAL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER CAETANO PROVED TO BE ALMOST COMPLETELY A COURTESY AFFAIR. TOWARD END OF STANDARD FIFTEEN-MINUTE PERIOD, CAETANO OBSERVED THAT I HAD COME TO PORTUGAL AT A TIME WHEN US-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS ARE EXTREMELY GOOD, BUT ALSO AT A TIME WHEN MOST IMPORTANT AND DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY WITH RESPECT TO AZORES AGREEMENT. PORTUGUESE PUBLIC OPINION IS COOL TOWARD THE AGREEMENT. THE 1971 AGREEMENT WAS POORLY PUT TOGETHER FROM THE PORTUGUESE STANDPOINT.

2. I AGREED WITH CHARACTERIZATION OF THE PRESENT STATE OF US-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE AND DELICACY OF THE AZORES NEGOTIATIONS, ASSURED HIM THAT THE USG HAD EVERY INTENTION TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO PORTUGAL'S DESIRES, ADDED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD HAD MANY PREOCCUPATIONS RECENTLY BUT THAT THE PROBLEMS RAISED WITH HIM HERE WERE BEING CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTIVELY WORKED ON, AND POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE

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POLITICAL AND CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS IN THAT REGARD WHICH GOP MUST APPRECIATE.

3. HE OBSERVED THAT US CONGRESS WAS "TERRIBLE" (HIS CHARACTERIZATION, NOT MINE), PARTICULARLY IN HAVING PASSED LEGISLATION DIRECTED AGAINST PORTUGAL AND THE USE OF US AID IN PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN PROVINCES. I POINTED OUT THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION HAD ACTIVELY OPPOSED THAT LEGISLATION. HE THEN PASSED ON TO CLOSING PLEASANTRIES. ATMOSPHERE: RESTRAINED CORDIALITY. AT NO TIME DID HE DISPLAY THE FEELING OF IMPATIENCE SO HEAVILY EMPHASIZED BY FONMIN.
SCOTT

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NNN

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TAGS: PFOR, PO, US, (CAETANO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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